DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 147 000 JC 780 020

AUTHOR Gold, Ben K.
TITLE Performance on the Fall 1977 L.A.C.C. Guidance Examination. Research Study #77-13.
INSTITUTION Los Angeles City Coll., Calif.
PUB DATE Dec 77
NOTE 13p.

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Community Colleges; *English; Institutional Research; *Junior Colleges; Junior College Students; *Reading Ability; *Reading Level; Reading Tests; *Student Placement
IDENTIFIERS Survey of Reading Achievement

ABSTRACT

The performance of 1,904 entering students taking the Survey of Reading Achievement test for placement in English at Los Angeles City College in fall 1977 was examined and produced the following information: (1) the median reading level was 9.2, compared with 10.0 in fall 1976; (2) the 26% of the test-takers with reading levels above 11.0 were recommended to English 1, the 30% with reading levels between 9.0-10.9 were recommended for English 60, and the 44% with reading levels below 9.0 were recommended for Developmental Communications; (3) males (40% of the total) averaged about one-half grade higher than females; (4) former students of Los Angeles city high schools averaged below other California public and private schools, and below other geographic regions of the United States; (5) performance according to former attendance at particular Los Angeles high schools varied from a grade range of 7 to 10; and (6) compared to fall 1976 entrants, the percentage recommended for English 1 declined from 35% to 26%, the percentage recommended for English 60 declined from 34% to 30%, while those recommended for Developmental Communications rose from 31% to 44%. Where students had attended other colleges, former California State University students scored lowest and former University of California students scored highest. (Author/RT)

****
* Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished *
* materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort *
* to obtain the best copy available. Nevertheless, items of marginal *
* reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality *
* of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available *
* via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not *
* responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions *
* supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original. *
****

ED147000

LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE
"PERFORMANCE ON THE FALL 1977 L.A.C.C. GUIDANCE EXAMINATION"

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Ben K. Gold

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC) AND USERS OF THE ERIC SYSTEM."

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

Research Study #77 - 13

JC 780 020

Ben K. Gold
Research Office
December, 1977

"Performance on the Fall 1977 L.A.C.C.
Guidance Examination"

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

In order to enroll in an English class at L.A.C.C., day students are required to show evidence that they have achieved minimum level on an appropriate reading test. The Counseling Center each semester offers the "Guidance Examination" for entering freshmen to provide them that evidence. The test used most frequently in the past several years has been the Survey of Reading Achievement (advanced grades 9 to 12), published by California Test Bureau. This study looks at the performance of students taking this test for entrance into L.A.C.C. for the Fall 1977 semester.

PROCEDURE OF THE STUDY

With the cooperation of the Data Center, IBM cards were punched for each student taking the Guidance Examination. Variables included in the data were raw score, grade level (according to national norms furnished by the test publisher), English course recommendation as well as the student's name and sex, and codes for last high school and college attended. SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) programs, now available on the district computer, were used to provide frequency counts and raw score means and standard deviations for selected subsets of the data. Printouts from the programs were used as a basis for the analysis following.

FINDINGS

1,904 cards were punched for students taking the SRA test at one of six administrations of the Guidance Examination during the summer of 1977. Table 1 and Figure 1 show the distribution of student scores according to their grade level placement by the test. Also indicated are the percentages recommended for the various English levels. Percents recommended by the counseling staff for the various English courses will not match the figures shown here, as they make adjustments for students with foreign background, a factor not considered in this study. Comparative data for Fall 1976 is included in Table 1. Table 2 indicates raw score mean and standard deviation by sex for each of these six test dates and for the total group. Table 3 presents statistics according to previous college attended, Tables 4 and 5 according to location of last high school attended, with Table 4 indicating geographical areas and Table 5 looking at individual Los Angeles City high schools.

TABLE 1 - Percentage Distribution of Students Taking the Fall 1977 (and Fall 1976) LACC Guidance Examination According to Grade Level

Grade Level	Raw Score	% of Students F'76	% of Students F'77	Recommended for English 1 F'76	Recommended for English 1 F'77
16.0+	93+	2.1	0.3	35.1%	25.7%
15.0 - 15.9	83 - 92	5.0	2.9		
14.0 - 14.9	75 - 82	5.6	4.3		
13.0 - 13.9	67 - 74	6.6	5.4		
12.0 - 12.9	61 - 66	6.5	4.9		
11.0 - 11.9	55 - 60	9.3	7.8		
				Recommended for English 60 F'76	Recommended for English 60 F'77
10.0 - 10.9	48 - 54	15.8	11.6	34.0%	29.8%
9.0 - 9.9	39 - 47	18.2	18.2		
				Recommended for Developmental Communications 20 F'76	Recommended for Developmental Communications 20 F'77
8.0 - 8.9	33 - 38	11.2	14.6	22.5%	27.3%
7.0 - 7.9	27 - 32	11.3	12.7		
				Recommended for Developmental Communications 22 F'76	Recommended for Developmental Communications 22 F'77
6.0 - 6.9	19 - 26	6.9	11.7	8.4%	17.2%
5.9 -	0 - 18	1.5	5.5		

Number taking Guidance Examination 1,904

	F'76	F'77
Median Grade Level:	10.0	9.2
Grade Level for Mean Raw Score:	9.8	9.6

TABLE 2 - Performance on L.A.C.C. Guidance Examination Fall 1977 by Date of Examination

Date	Sex	Number	Score Mean	Standard Dev.
June 4, 1977	Total	122	40.9	16.9
	Male	60	41.0	16.4
	Female	62	40.7	17.6
June 25, 1977	Total	123	44.3	18.7
	Male	57	44.4	20.6
	Female	66	44.2	17.1
July 16, 1977	Total	246	44.5	17.6
	Male	91	45.7	18.6
	Female	154	44.0	16.8
August 6, 1977	Total	340	43.7	18.4
	Male	128	42.8	18.5
	Female	212	44.2	18.3
August 17, 1977	Total	451	45.1	18.7
	Male	187	47.4	19.6
	Female	264	43.5	17.9
August 30, 1977	Total	622	43.1	17.9
	Male	244	45.5	18.7
	Female	378	41.4	17.2
TOTAL	Total	1904	43.8	18.1
	Male	767	45.1	18.9
	Female	1136	42.9	17.6

TABLE 3 - Performance on LACC Guidance Examination, Fall 1977 by Previous College Attended

College	Sex	No.	Raw Score Mean	Standard Dev.
None	Total	1295	41.4	17.2
	Male	518	42.6	18.1
	Female	776	40.7	16.5
LACCD	Total	308	46.8	17.1
	Male	128	49.1	17.0
	Female	180	45.1	17.0
Other 2 year colleges	Total	123	51.2	18.6
	Male	48	50.1	17.8
	Female	75	51.8	19.3
CSU	Total	12	45.5	19.8
	Male	6	39.7	21.9
	Female	6	51.3	17.2
University of California	Total	16	62.8	22.4
	Male	7	61.9	24.5
	Female	9	63.4	16.9
Other	Total	150	49.6	22.0
	Male	60	52.9	23.7
	Female	90	47.4	20.6
TOTAL	Total	1904	43.8	18.1
	Male	767	45.1	18.9
	Female	1136	42.9	17.6

TABLE 4 - Performance on LACC Guidance Examination Fall 1977 by Area of Last High School Attended

	Sex	No.	Raw Score Mean	Standard Dev.
Not stated	Total	108	31.9	14.5
	Male	59	32.6	15.3
	Female	48	31.3	13.7
LA City Schools	Total	934	42.2	17.1
	Male	375	45.0	17.9
	Female	559	40.3	16.3
Other Calif. Public	Total	152	51.5	18.1
	Male	67	52.1	16.7
	Female	85	51.0	19.2
Calif. Private	Total	102	51.9	18.0
	Male	27	56.5	21.9
	Female	75	50.2	16.2
Western States	Total	25	58.1	19.3
	Male	8	64.5	13.5
	Female	17	55.1	21.1
West Central States	Total	10	53.9	21.0
	Male	4	52.3	31.3
	Female	6	55.0	14.3
Central States	Total	83	51.5	18.3
	Male	23	56.8	18.6
	Female	60	49.4	17.9
South Central States	Total	35	48.5	18.0
	Male	17	45.5	15.0
	Female	18	51.4	20.5
Southern States	Total	77	42.2	17.2
	Male	30	45.8	20.1
	Female	47	39.9	14.8
North Eastern States	Total	105	53.1	17.9
	Male	41	53.4	18.8
	Female	64	52.9	14.8
Foreign	Total	273	38.8	17.2
	Male	116	38.0	18.0
	Female	157	39.3	16.6
TOTAL	Total	1904	43.8	18.1
	Male	767	45.1	18.9
	Female	1136	42.9	17.6

TABLE 5 - Performance on LACC Guidance Examination Fall 1977 by Last High School Attended: L. A. City Schools

High School	Sex	No.	Raw Score Mean	Standard Dev.
Belmont	Total	147	44.4	16.6
	Male	59	46.9	17.2
	Female	88	42.6	16.0
Crenshaw	Total	45	29.5	7.1
	Male	13	31.4	7.8
	Female	32	28.8	6.7
Dorsey	Total	44	35.6	12.3
	Male	16	34.7	12.4
	Female	28	36.1	12.5
Eagle Rock	Total	11	51.5	19.8
	Male	4	52.0	26.6
	Female	7	51.3	17.3
Fairfax	Total	65	49.9	19.9
	Male	29	51.0	22.4
	Female	36	49.0	17.8
Franklin	Total	23	42.5	14.4
	Male	8	43.4	10.2
	Female	15	42.0	16.6
Fremont	Total	35	31.9	12.3
	Male	9	34.8	15.7
	Female	26	30.9	11.1
Gardena	Total	6	36.0	16.4
	Male	0	--	--
	Female	6	36.0	16.4
Hamilton	Total	17	48.3	16.9
	Male	9	50.0	19.5
	Female	8	46.4	14.5
Hollywood	Total	77	42.5	17.7
	Male	39	45.4	17.8
	Female	38	39.5	17.3

Continued on next page

TABLE 5 (continued)

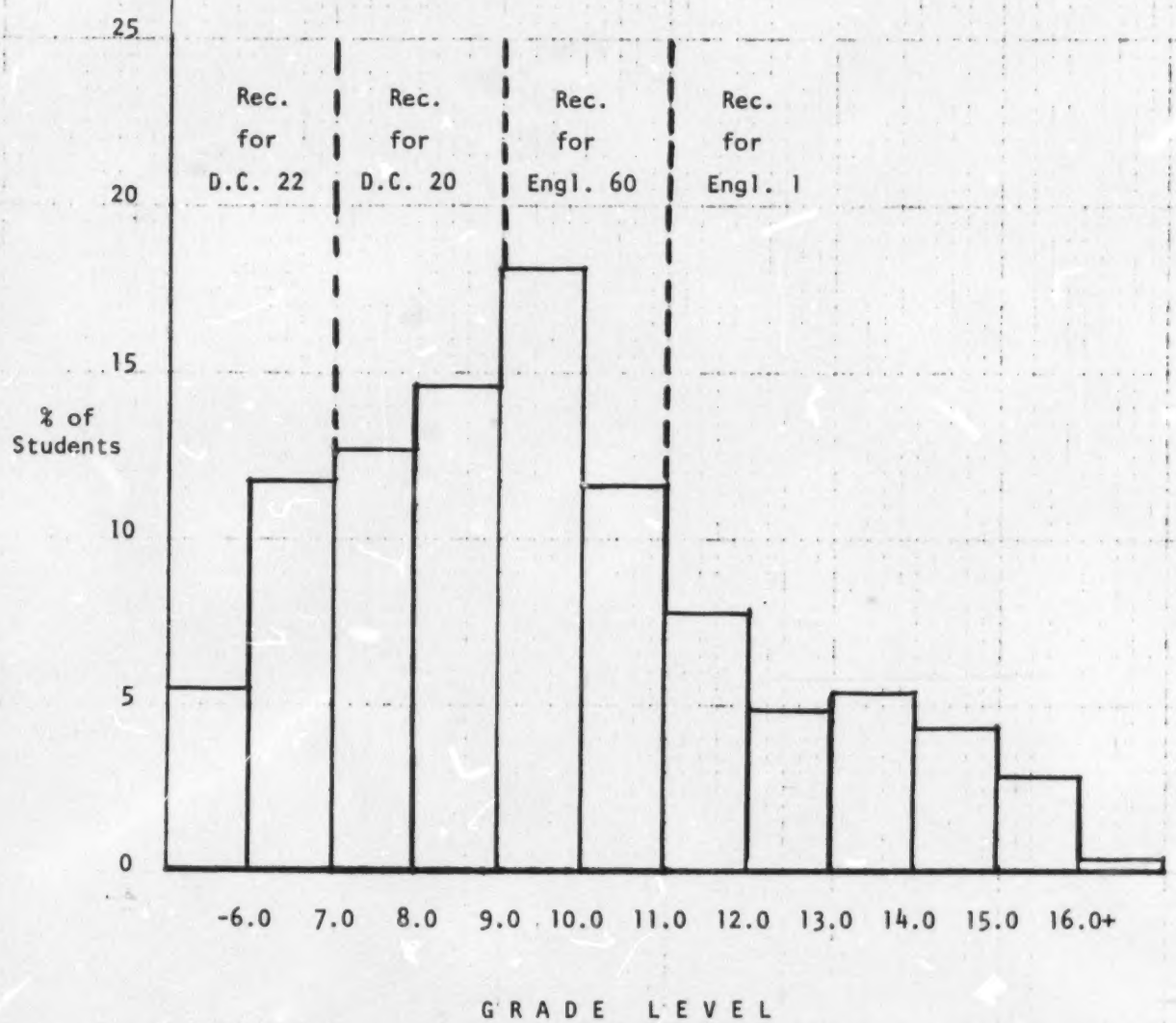
High School	Sex	No.	Raw Score Mean	Standard Dev.
Jefferson	Total	32	28.3	9.8
	Male	15	30.1	13.1
	Female	17	26.8	5.4
Jordan	Total	8	31.4	7.4
	Male	3	39.7	5.0
	Female	5	26.4	1.1
Lincoln	Total	10	38.7	9.8
	Male	3	32.7	3.1
	Female	7	41.3	11.0
Locke	Total	15	37.9	13.7
	Male	5	41.6	17.4
	Female	10	36.1	12.1
Los Angeles	Total	78	38.5	15.7
	Male	36	38.6	14.2
	Female	42	38.4	17.1
Manual Arts	Total	44	35.0	13.2
	Male	11	41.4	16.3
	Female	33	32.8	11.6
Marshall	Total	79	49.8	17.0
	Male	31	51.3	16.4
	Female	48	48.8	17.5
North Hollywood	Total	4	52.0	14.3
	Male	3	57.3	11.6
	Female	1	36.0	0
Roosevelt	Total	20	41.9	20.5
	Male	8	50.4	23.4
	Female	12	36.2	17.0
University	Total	5	39.4	16.2
	Male	4	34.3	13.2
	Female	1	60.0	0
Verdugo	Total	1	49.0	0
	Male	1	49.0	0
	Female	0	--	--

Continued on next page

TABLE 5 (continued)

High School	Sex	No.	Raw Score Mean	Standard Dev.
Washington	Total	33	40.5	14.2
	Male	5	51.8	26.3
	Female	28	38.5	10.5
Westchester	Total	5	51.8	10.1
	Male	2	47.5	2.1
	Female	3	54.7	13.1
Wilson	Total	7	50.7	22.8
	Male	4	55.3	16.4
	Female	3	44.7	32.6
Other LA City	Total	123	48.2	17.9
	Male	58	50.3	18.3
	Female	65	46.4	17.4
TOTAL	Total	1904	43.8	18.1
	Male	767	45.1	18.9
	Female	1136	42.9	17.6

FIGURE 1 - Grade Level Distribution on Fall 1977 L.A.C.C. Guidance Examination



CONCLUSIONS

Following are some observations on the performance of 1904 students who took the Guidance Examination administered to students entering LACC in Fall 1977:

(1) Median reading grade level was 9.2, compared with 10.0 in Fall 1976.

(2) 26% of those taking the test received a recommendation to take English 1, a drop from the Fall 1976 figure of 35%. 44% were recommended for Developmental Communications, an increase over the Fall 1976 figure of 31%.

(3) Males (40% of the total) average performance was about a half grade level higher than that for females.

(4) Average performance for students who last attended a Los Angeles city high school was below the overall average.

(5) Performance according to particular Los Angeles high school varied markedly, with averages ranging from seventh to tenth grade level.

(6) Number of females taking the test was 60% of the total, an increase from last year's 57%. Females from the following high schools: Crenshaw, Fremont, Manual Arts, and Washington, outnumbered males by more than two to one.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES

JAN 20 1978

CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
JUNIOR COLLEGES

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *